

**REMARKS**

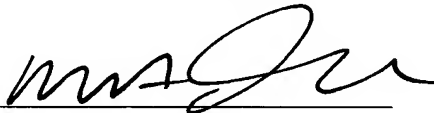
Claims 2-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The specification has been amended to insert a "Cross Reference to Related Applications" section. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: February 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant